

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN JOHN BRUEGGEMAN**, on February 20, 2003
at 9:15 A.M., in Room 317-A Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. John Brueggeman, Chairman (R)
Sen. Rick Laible, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. Mike Cooney (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)
Rep. John Sinrud (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Matt Bugni, OBPP
Greg DeWitt, Legislative Branch
Christi Moyer, OBPP
Amy Sassano, OBPP
Misty Shea, Committee Secretary
Lynn Zanto, Legislative Branch

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Tape stamps indicate information that is found below.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: Finalization of previous business,
2/20/2003

Executive Action: Economic Development Office

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 8}

CHAIRMAN BRUEGGEMAN began by informing the committee that a bill draft is ready to be introduced on the proposal to reduce the 60 day billing cycle for liquor stores through the Department of Revenue. He also stated he had been discussing what to do with the Consensus Council as previously discussed, with **REP. LEWIS**. He explained the options explored are to have the council placed into the Department of Administration or the University system. The committee expressed their thoughts on the possibilities, **REP. LINDEEN** and **CHAIRMAN BRUEGGEMAN** agreed to work on the matters in full Appropriations Committee, and they spoke on the aforementioned bill being reported out of finance.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 8 - 16.5}

SEN. LAIBLE expressed his concerns about all the agencies presenting law adjustments for the breakdown of personal service costs. He was interested in hearing the details pertaining to the budget snapshot taken every two years. **Amy Sassano, OBPP**, explained, as she is the one who takes it. **Ms. Sassano** discussed the calculation of vacancy savings, personal services, actual agency expenditures, and fixed cost requirements with **SEN. LAIBLE** for his information. She stated that the Budget office is the only program within the Governor's office that is in the broadband pay system.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 16.5 - 30}

Steve Bender, Department of Administration (DOA) Deputy Director, added his comments to the personal service cost adjustments discussion from an agency perspective. **Lynn Zanto, LFD**, referenced the committee to Page A-64 of the Budget Analysis book and explained the reductions. **SEN. COONEY** spoke on moving the Consumer Protection office to the Department of Justice (DOJ) from the DOA. He stated there is support from DOJ on the issue. He also commented that a performance audit on the Governor's Economic Development office has been requested. **Ms. Zanto** and **SEN. LAIBLE** discussed restricting the committee's recommended appropriation to the Economic Development office due to recent cuts to their budget.

Motion: **SEN. LAIBLE** moved that the MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY BE RESTRICTED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT USE ONLY .

Discussion:

Barbara Ranff, Governor's Office Chief of Staff, wanted to know how the motion would work and what her constraints would be. **SEN. LAIBLE** explained to her that his intent is to make sure that the appropriated funding is not used for anything but what it is intended for. **CHAIRMAN BRUEGGEMAN** clarified further, and stated that he does not fully support the motion. **SEN. LAIBLE** spoke on the intention to keep what funding is available for the time being and possibly amend later if there are no further cuts. **SEN. COONEY** commented that he agreed with **SEN. LAIBLE**. **Ms. Ranff** stated her position on her ability to manage the Governor's Office budget on behalf of the governor at the \$500,000 unspecified reduction point which the Governor's Office is at now. **SEN. LAIBLE, SEN. COONEY, Ms. Ranff, and SEN. BARKUS** made final comments on the options open for their consideration.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 3 - 15}

Vote: Motion carried 3-1 by roll call vote with **CHAIRMAN BRUEGGEMAN** voting no.

REPRESENTATIVES LINDEEN and SINRUD were non-voting members.

Lynn Zanto, LFD, by request of **SEN. LAIBLE**, presented to the committee a sheet she prepared showing what the committee had done in regard to the Judiciary. She explained the actions they had taken and the budget differences reflected.

EXHIBIT (jgh38a01)

Lisa Smith, Court Administration Operations Officer, spoke on the status of district court reimbursements to counties, and **Matt Bugni, OBPP**, provided the accounting cost perspective.

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10 A.M.

REP. JOHN BRUEGGEMAN, Chairman

MISTY SHEA, Secretary

JB/MS

EXHIBIT (jgh38aad)